

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 VO-03 SCA-01 EB-08 COME-00 /070 W
-----281944Z 010113 /45

R 281515Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4310
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISS ON USNATO

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, WB, US, UR, UK, FR
SUBJECT: SENAT PROPOSAL THAT ALLIES MODIFY RESIDENCE PERMIT
PROCEDURES FOR SOVIET CITIZENS IN WEST BERLIN

REF: 76 USBERLIN 2718

1. IN COURSE OF PAST TWO OR THREE MONTHS ALLIES
HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING NEED TO REVISE REGULATION GOVERNING
ENTRANCE AND RESIDENCE IN WESTBERLINBY SOVIET CITIZENS
IN WEST BERLINFOR PERIODS UP TO THREE MONTHS. CURRENT
ARRANGEMENTS GOVERNED BY BK/O(67)7 LED TO SOME DIF-
FICULTIRES IN OCTOBER AND EARLY NOVEMBR 1976 WHEN
SOVIET TRADE MISSION OFFICIALS USED LEGAL LOOPHOLE IN
BK/O TO CIRCUMVENT INTENT OF ORDER WHICH IS DESIGNED
TO PERMIT SOVIETS AND EASTERN EUROPEANS TO VISIT WEST
BERLIN WITHOUT A VISA FOR PERIODS UP TO 31 DAYS (REFTEL),
IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH USMISSION OFFICER SENAT
OFFICIALS MADE OFFICIAL PRESENTTION TO EFFECT THAT
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SENAT IS UNHAPPY WITH PROVIISIONS OF BK/L(67)15, (ISSUED
IN CONJUNCTION WITH BK/O(67)7) WHICH PERMIT ALMOST ANY
SOVIET CITIZEN NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THE SOVIET PRESENCE
IN EAST BERLIN OR THE SOVIET CONSULATE GENERAL OR
COMMERCIAL OFFICES PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE QUADRIPARTITE
AGREEMENT TO VISIT WEST BERLIN FOR UP TO 3 MONTHS
WITHOUT OBTAINING AN FRG VISA. OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN CITIZENS

WHO WISH TO VISIT WEST BERLIN FOR PERIODS LONGER THAN 31 DAYS, HOWEVER, MUST OBTAIN AN FRG VISA VALID ALSO FOR WEST BERLIN. SENAT OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THAT IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN BLOC SOLIDARITY, THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IS APPARENTLY PUTTING PRESSURE ON EASTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS NOT TO ACCEPT FRG VISAS FOR WEST BERLIN. EASTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS ARE IN TURN PRESSURING THE SENAT (AND POSSIBLY THE FRG AS WELL) TO ARRANGE FOR ITS CITIZENS TO HAVE THE SAME ATO VISITORS' PERMIT PRIVILEGES AS OFFERED SOVIET CITIZENS UNDER BK/L(67)15. SENAT OFFICIALS ARGUE THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES COULD THEY ACCEPT A LIBERALIZATION OF ATO VISITOR PERMIT PROCEDURES TO PERMIT EASTERN EUROPEANS TO VISIT WEST BERLIN FOR PERIODS IN EXCESS OF 31 DAYS WITHOUT OBTAINING THE REQUISITE FRG VISA. RATHER, THE SENAT WOULD PREFER TO HAVE THE ALLIES DO AWAY WITH CURRENT SPECIAL ATO RESIDENCE PERMIT PRIVILEGES PROVIDED SOVIET NATIONALS BY BK/L(67)15.

2. WE WERE RATHER SURPRISED BY THE SENAT'S PROPOSAL, WHICH WAS MADE WITH THE APPARENT APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNING MAYOR, ASKED IF THE SENAT WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THAT A DECISION TO DO AWAY WITH THE THREE MONTH ATO RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR SOVIETS VISITING WEST BERLIN WOULD IN ALL LIKELIHOOD WOULD RESULT IN THE SOVIETS REFUSING TO MOUNT ANY MORE MAJOR INDEPENDENT TRADE FAIR EFFORTS SUCH AS THE ONE LAST OCTOBER SINCE SOVIET PERSONNEL WOULD BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN AN FRG VISA TO REMAIN IN WEST BERLIN FOR PERIODS IN EXCESS OF 31 DAYS, SENAT OFFICIALS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPLIED QUITE FIRMLY THAT "NOBODY IN WEST BERLIN" WAS INTERESTED IN HAVING THAT TYPE OF SOVIET FAIR IN ANY CASE. SENAT OFFICIALS ADDED THAT TRADE FAIRS SUCH AS THE ONE MOUNTED LAST OCTOBER AND SIMILAR EFFORTS SUCH AS PLANNED "SIBERIAN WEEKS" WERE SEEN BY THE SENAT TO BE OF NO REAL BENEFIT TO WEST BERLIN. SUCH AFFAIRS SERVED ONLY TO PROMOTE THE SOVIET IMAGE AND FURTHER SOVIET PROPAGANDA EFFORTS HERE. THESE FAIRS DID NOTHING TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN WEST BERLIN. THE ONLY SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEAN VISITORS WHO WERE OF INTEREST TO THE WEST BERLIN GOVERNMENT ARE THOSE WHO WERE ABLE TO DO THEIR BUSINESS HERE IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS AND THEN LEAVE, I.E., CULTURAL FIGURES, JOURNALISTS, VISITING SCHOLARS AND BUSINESSMEN.

3. AT THE REQUEST OF THE SENAT WE HAVE RAISED THE PROPOSAL TO DO AWAY WITH THE SPECIAL ATO RESIDENCE PERMIT PROCEDURES FOR SOVIETS WITHOUT BRITISH AND FRENCH COLLEAGUES AND HAVE ASKED THEIR OPINION OF THE

PROPOSAL.

4. SENAT OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY HAVE DESCRIBED TO THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE IN BONN THE PROBLEM (AS THEY PERCEIVE IT) WHICH SPECIAL ATO RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR SOVIET CITIZENS POSES FOR THEM. SENAT OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE SUBJECT DISCUSSED IN THE BONN GROUP IF THERE IS ANY INCLINATION ON THE ALLIED SIDE TO AGREE TO ELIMINATION OF THE SPECIAL ATO VISITORS PERMIT PROVIDISON FOR SOVIETS BY BK/L(67)15. FOR OUR PART, WE SEE SOME MERIT IN THE ENAT PROPOSAL, PARTICULARLY SINCE CORRESPONDING CATEGORIES OF ALLIED CITIZENS (BUSINESSMEN, TOURISTS, ENTERTAINES AND SCHOLARS) ARE OFFERED NO SIMILAR PRIVILEGES TO VISIT EAST BERLIN. WE WILL REPORT THE VIEWS OF BRITISH AND FRENCH WHEN WE HAVE RECEIVED THEM.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 28-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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